

INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS DEPARTMENT[481]

Notice of Intended Action

Proposing rule making related to the investigations division and providing an opportunity for public comment

The Department of Inspections and Appeals hereby proposes to amend Chapter 1, “Administration,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rule Making

This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 10A.104(5).

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 10A.401 to 10A.403.

Purpose and Summary

In Chapter 1, the rule for the administration of the Department’s Investigations Division is being updated to reflect the current structure of the Division. The amendment is the result of a review of all administrative rules related to the Investigations Division.

Fiscal Impact

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Department for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 481—Chapter 6.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written comments concerning this proposed rule making. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on March 20, 2018. Comments should be directed to:

Director
Department of Inspections and Appeals
Lucas State Office Building
321 East 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0083
Fax: 515.242.6863
Email: david.werning@dia.iowa.gov

Public Hearing

No public hearing is scheduled at this time. As provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b,” an oral presentation regarding this rule making may be demanded by 25 interested persons, a governmental subdivision, the Administrative Rules Review Committee, an agency, or an association having 25 or more members.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee’s meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rule-making action is proposed:

Rescind rule 481—1.4(10A) and adopt the following new rule in lieu thereof:

481—1.4(10A) Investigations division. The investigations division of the department conducts criminal, civil, and administrative investigations of fraud and misconduct. The division also conducts audits of health care facilities. Staff within the division work closely with federal, state, and local partners in identifying fraud, waste, and abuse and, where appropriate, presenting cases for criminal prosecution.

1.4(1) Units of the division. The division is comprised of the following units.

a. Abuse coordinating unit. The abuse coordinating unit assists with the detection, investigation and prosecution of civil, administrative dependent adult abuse allegations in health care facilities.

b. Audit unit. The audit unit audits health care facilities to review and verify facility resident billing and personal allowance accounts and to determine whether state billings accurately reflect the health care facility census. The unit audits local department of human services offices to review and verify whether administrative expense claims and official receipts are in accordance with the criteria set forth in 2 CFR Part 200 and state law.

c. Economic fraud control bureau (EFCB). The economic fraud control bureau is comprised of two units.

(1) Program integrity/electronic benefit transfer (EBT) unit. This unit investigates recipient public assistance fraud and food assistance trafficking. Division staff investigate suspected fraud and assist the department of human services to determine eligibility for public assistance. Division staff may conduct investigations relative to the administration of any other state or federal benefit assistance program. Division staff may also conduct investigations relative to the internal affairs and operations of agencies and departments within the executive branch of state government, except for institutions governed by the state board of regents.

(2) Divestiture unit. This unit investigates the transfer or assignment of a legal or equitable interest in property from a Medicaid recipient transferor to a transferee for less than fair consideration. The department may establish a debt against the transferee, due and owing to the department of human services, in an amount equal to the medical assistance provided, but not in excess of the fair consideration value of the assets transferred.

d. Medicaid fraud control unit (MFCU). The Medicaid fraud control unit investigates allegations of fraud committed by providers against the Medicaid program as well as fraud in the administration of the Medicaid program. MFCU also investigates abuse, neglect or other crimes committed upon residents in care facilities or related programs that receive funding from the Medicaid program.

e. Professional standards unit. The professional standards unit investigates licensed professionals for the professional licensure division of the department of public health. Licensing boards may refer professional practice inquiries to the unit for investigation. This unit does not conduct investigations on behalf of the board of medicine, the board of pharmacy, the dental board, or the board of nursing.

f. Public assistance debt recovery unit (PADRU). The public assistance debt recovery unit investigates and initiates collections of overpayment debts owed to the department of human services.

1.4(2) Peace officer status. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 10A.403, investigators assigned to the division shall have the powers and authority of peace officers when acting within the scope of their responsibilities to conduct investigations as specified in Iowa Code section 10A.402(5). An investigator shall not carry a weapon to perform responsibilities as described in this subrule.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 10A.401 to 10A.403.